



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Chief Administrative Officer

March 26, 2020

Kelly Cote
Senior Strategist, Corporate Strategy
City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

File# 0230

RE: Rocky View County Specialized Municipality Status Application

Dear Kelly,

Rocky View County is considering an application to Municipal Affairs to change our municipal status from Municipal District to Specialized Municipality. You are likely already aware of this application as the County has been discussing this at Intermunicipal Committee meetings, Calgary Metropolitan Region Board TAG meetings, and through informal channels.

The classification of a municipality, under Section 77 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), is based on which definition best fits that municipality. In certain cases, when a municipality has characteristics of more than one type, and the tools in the MGA do not meet the specific needs, then Specialized Municipal status can be considered by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The County is seeking Specialized Municipality status as growth in Rocky View County has led to a pattern of development that includes growing urban-style hamlets, regional business centres, and traditional rural areas. As a result, this heterogeneous development pattern has led to differentiated service needs; the more urban areas of the County require higher levels of amenities and service, while the rural areas do not.

The main tool the County wishes to access through this proposed change is the ability to create different non-residential assessment classes in different areas of the County. For example, a gas station along the highway in a rural area of the County pays the same amount of taxes as a gas station in East Balzac, which is a developed area with extensive services. Specialized Municipal status would allow the County to create urban service areas and clearly link service delivery to assessment and taxation in those particular areas, allowing the County to better raise funds for services like transit and curbside garbage pick up, where necessary.

The County is proposing 5 residential urban service areas and 4 business urban service areas, in accordance with the attached map.

An important part of the application to Municipal Affairs is consultation with residents, business owners and municipal neighbours. Therefore, the County is requesting your feedback, questions or concerns about the County's potential application. If you support or have no concerns with our application, we would greatly appreciate correspondence stating that.

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The public engagement portion of this project is currently underway and Administration is targeting the end of May to return to Council with the results of the public, stakeholder and intermunicipal engagement. To meet this timeframe, we are respectfully requesting a response by May 4, 2020. If you would like to have a phone meeting or conversation prior to providing a response, I am happy to accommodate. Please contact me and we can arrange a convenient time.

For more information on this project, please visit the following link:
<https://www.rockyview.ca/Government/SpecializedMunicipality.aspx>. As stated, if you have any questions, please contact me at 403-589-6718 or azaluski@rockyview.ca.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,
Rocky View County



Amy Zaluski,
Intergovernmental Affairs Manager

Cc: Al Hoggan, Chief Administrative Officer

